



(Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Shaffer, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI))

## Sparks fly in the weapons shop

Pfc. Elias Martinez (left), a native of Menteca, Calif., and Pfc. Katrina Nosbich-Stamp, a native of Farmington, N.Y., both small arms and artillery repairmen serving with the 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI), fix weapons at Camp Striker, Iraq. For story see page 2.

## Four-legged 'troops' have knack for sniffing out explosives

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Marlow  
2-2 Inf. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq - Two of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's most valuable assets never talk about work, preferring to let the results speak for themselves.

Even with their quiet demeanor, they have uncovered numerous weapons caches and explosives, and have become two of the most popular, and productive, members

of the unit.

They are the unit's two military working dogs, Blacky and Frisko.

Blacky, a 2-year-old German shepherd with a dark chocolate coat and handled by Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael Jones. Jones, from Kingswood, W. Va.. The team is attached to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment.

The other dog team with 2-17th FA consists of Frisko, a 6-year-old black-and-brown German shepherd and handler

Senior Airman Adam La Barr of Rome, N.Y.

The dogs are trained to sniff out explosives and chase down insurgents. Getting them ready for those essential tasks is up to the handlers.

The initial training takes about 90 days. The first step is getting the handler and dog comfortable with each other.

See **Dogs**, Page 3

# 'Providers' give Soldiers necessary tools to complete missions



(Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Shaffer)

**Pfc. Katrina Nosbich-Stamp, a native of Farmington, N.Y., who serves as a 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI) small arms and artillery repairman, fixes weapons at Camp Striker, Iraq.**

**By Capt. Amanda Nalls  
210th BSB, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI)**

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq - While the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) continue to push farther into sector in order to defeat the enemy, other Soldiers are working behind the scenes to help accomplish missions.

The from the 210th Brigade Support Battalion's, armament repair section is developing innovative ways to ensure that the Iraqi Army troops have the tools necessary to complete their mission.

In addition to their day-to-day work - repairing and modifying weapon systems within the brigade - the armament section has turned their attention towards repairing weapons in support the Iraqi Army.

After enemy weapons are seized from weapons caches by the maneuver units within the brigade, the weapons are brought to the armament team for inspection and repairs.

To date, the team has inspected 170 weapons, repaired more than 40, and re-issued more than 70 back to Iraqi Army and Iraqi Special Forces units.

The project, which helps ensure that the Iraqi Army is armed and prepared to defend

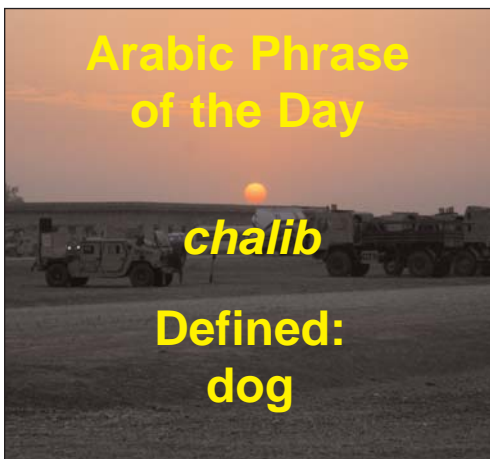
themselves against insurgents, will continue to grow in magnitude as more enemy weapons are captured throughout the brigade's area of operations.

"My Soldiers are really working hard to complete this mission in addition to their normal job repairing weapons for the brigade," said Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Shaffer, a 210th BSB armament repair technician and native of Alliance, Ohio. "We have a small section, but they do an amazing job with the resources they have to work with."

In just a few short months, the Soldiers of the Armament Repair Section have made a lasting contribution to their fellow Soldiers and have made great strides in furthering the fight in the Global War on Terror.

"We're focusing our efforts forward," commented Lt. Col. Brian Rogers, the 210th BSB commander, and native of Bozeman, Mont. "This is the critical year in Iraq and the 'Provider Battalion' is going to make a difference."

With that guidance in mind, the Armament Section has made every effort to ensure that the Soldiers of the 2BCT, as well as their Iraqi Army counterparts, have some of the most accurate and well-maintained weapons in the country.



## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 56  
Low: 37



Tomorrow

High: 54  
Low: 39



Friday

High: 55  
Low: 37

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## Baghdad in Brief

### Three suspects detained after fire fight in Baghdad

KALSU, Iraq - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers detained three suspected insurgents while on patrol in a town, 35 miles southwest of Baghdad Jan. 14.

Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division received small arms fire from a squad-size insurgent team while on patrol of the Jurf As Sahkr water treatment plant.

The patrol witnessed insurgents stripping a vehicle suspected for use as a potential vehicle-borne explosive device. As the insurgents flee, dispersing in different directions, the patrol received small arms fire from two nearby houses.

Three insurgents were detained and are being held for further questioning.

### Security operations continue in Al-Doura district

BAGHDAD - Iraqi national police officer and Soldiers from Multi-National Division Baghdad continued clearing operations in the Al-Doura district of Baghdad Jan. 14.

The combined forces have successfully detained two suspected terrorists and found four caches consisting of munitions, a constructed improvised explosive device and other bomb-making materials.

One of the four caches found consisted of numerous weapons and munitions found in the Al Haseina Mosque. Iraqi and National Police entered the mosque securing the munitions and detained two unidentified males. Coalition forces maintained security around the mosque while the policemen conducted the search.

The two men detained are being held for further questioning.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Marlow, 2-2 Inf. Public Affairs)

**Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael Jones, attached to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, leads Blacky on a search for explosives at Forward Operating Base Loyalty.**

## Dogs used to help Soldiers find caches

### Dogs

From Page 1

Handlers bathe and groom the dogs and learn each other's personalities. Next, the dogs are drilled in obedience, and they begin sniffing for explosives.

All that time and training pays off on the battlefield. Merely having a dog along pays dividends against insurgents, said Jones.

"Just seeing a dog deters them from running away or trying to pass weapons and explosives through," he said.

But the intimidation and heightened senses would be useless without human input.

"The dog and handler are a team," Jones said. "One can't work without the other."

Part of the handler's role is to point out areas for the dogs to search. In the real world, though, the trainer wouldn't know where the bomb is placed. This is where the dog's nose comes in handy, and the handler has to understand the dog.

When Blacky comes upon a suspected

explosive, he reacts passively.

"He won't be aggressive, he won't paw at it," Jones said. "We don't want that, if there's a bomb in there. (The explosive ordnance disposal team) gets paid to go in and mess with it."

Instead, Blacky sits by the suspected explosive or lies down. Sometimes the response can be even more subtle.

"I look for changes in his behavior, to see when he's curious about something," Jones said.

While people naturally gravitate to the dogs, Jones said it's important to remember they are not pets.

"Everyone thinks they can play with them," he said. "They are trained to be handler-protective. He's still an animal."

As such, the handlers never allow anyone to pet the dogs. "That might soften them up, or it could be seen by the dog as an attack," La Barr said.

Both handlers said working with dogs is a great job.

"A lot of people over here miss their pets," La Barr said. "He's not a pet, but I have a dog I can relate to."

# Personnel troops earn combat patches

By **Spc. L.B. Edgar,**  
7th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Combat is a challenge not every Soldier in history overcomes. A Soldier serving on the frontlines in the Global War on Terrorism earns the Army combat patch for his effort, which distinguishes a Soldier who has deployed in defense of his nation.

The latest recipients of this honor are the Soldiers of 15th Personnel Services Battalion, who received their Shoulder Sleeve Insignia for War-Time Service here with Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, 1st Cavalry Division deputy commander for support, 1st Cavalry Division in attendance at the ceremony Jan. 6.

The ceremony honored the Soldiers of 15th PSB for their contribution to the on-going mission, Sgt. Randi Richards, personnel noncommissioned officer, Detachment 4, 847th

Personnel Services Battalion, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command Expeditionary, 1st Cavalry Division.

"I think it's important to recognize Soldiers who have left their families, friends and loved ones behind to go over seas to defend their country in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom," said the native of Akron, Ohio, who left a husband behind to deploy.

Receiving the Patch of America's First Team made the ceremony even sweeter, said Richards, who is deployed for the first time in her eight-year Army career.

"It's definitely an honor to be part of such a distinguished division," she said.

For Spc. Craig Morrison, emergency on-call runner, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 15th PSB, who is away from his wife and two kids, the accomplishment, was

also a family affair.

"I am proud of it. I don't really consider it a combat patch seeing how we're personnel services, we're combat support. I feel by being away from my family for a year gives me the right to wear it," said Morrison.

In addition, having received his combat patch, Morrison said he feels more a part of Soldiers, both past,

present and future.

"I like being put in with all the Soldiers who have worn it in the past. It's definitely an honor to do that. When I go home on R and R (rest and relaxation) I'm going to be walking tall and proud wearing it on both shoulders," Morrison said. "It's definitely a morale booster. It falls into the category of honor and pride. It definitely feels good to put it on."



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

Spc. Craig Morrison, emergency on-call runner, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command Expeditionary, 1st Cavalry Division receives his Shoulder Sleeve Insignia for War-Time Service from Sgt. 1st Class Zenalia Moses, a detachment sergeant who hails from Coco, Fla., on Camp Liberty, Iraq, Jan. 6. Morrison, a native of Middleton, Mich., earned the right to wear the patch after serving in Iraq for more than two months.

## What do these items have in common?

**Deltoid Protector**



**Combat Earplugs**



**Ballistic Goggles**



## They all prevent injury.....

- Deltoid protectors prevent shrapnel wounds
- Combat earplugs prevent hearing loss
- Ballistic goggles prevent blindness



# 82nd Airborne medics get blessing before battle

**By Sgt. Mike Pryor**  
**2-85 Abn. Public Affairs**

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - Soldiers throughout history have marched into battle fortified by the prayers of their spiritual leaders. But the healers, who care for those Soldiers when they fall, deserve a special blessing.

In recognition of the unique role of caregivers on the battlefield, the unit ministry team of the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team held a service here Jan. 12 to bless the brigade's medical personnel prior to their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Maj. Jeffrey Hawkins, the brigade chaplain, said the purpose of the event was to honor and support the medics and strengthen the bond between the 2nd BCT's chaplains and medics.

"There are special bricks that get put in the rucksack of a caregiver. They carry a burden that not everybody has . . . We wanted to honor that," Hawkins said.

The service was short. After prayers and the recitation of the Medic's Creed, the lights

were dimmed and, in the flickering candlelight, Chaplain Cpt. Rodney Gilliam gave a benediction to the assembled group.

"It just gives them a little spiritual ammunition to go with their ballistic ammo," Hawkins said afterwards.

When it was over, the medical personnel who attended said they were proud and

grateful to the ministry team for including them.

"It's always nice when people can stop and recognize what the medics do," said 1st Lt. Erin Crofford, a medical evacuation platoon leader with Co. C, 407th Brigade Support Battalion.

Crofford said it was logical that the chaplains and medics should come together, since

they often work closely in combat.

Pfc. Timothy Schilz, a medic with Co. C, 407th Brigade Support Battalion, said he was glad for the opportunity to share a special moment with the team.

"There's nothing better than chaplains and medics coming together. There is a bond there," Schilz said.



(US Army photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2-85 Abn. Public Affairs)

**Chaplain Cpt. Rodney Gilliam, chaplain for the Special Troops Battalion, 2nd BCT, 82nd Airborne Division, offers a candle-lit benediction for the medics and chaplains of the brigade during a special service at Camp Buerhing's Post Chapel Jan. 12.**

## TELEVISION



	8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
<b>AFN   sports</b>	NFL Live	NBA Fastbreak (8:20)	College Gamenight (8:40)	NBA - Orlando Magic at New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets			
<b>AFN   prime ATLANTIC</b>	Headline News	ATS/Regional News	All of Us	Eve	I vs 100	Without a Trace	
<b>AFN   news</b>	MSNBC Live		MSNBC Live		Fox News Live		Studio B